



Association Affairs

PACIFIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

PSA UPDATES

New PSA Task Force on Marine Acidification

The Pacific Science Association (PSA) is establishing a Task Force on Marine Acidification in the Pacific (TAFMAP).

Scientific data collected over many years are conclusive that oceanic absorption of atmospheric CO₂ is causing global-scale chemical changes in seawater, making them more acidic (i.e. lowering pH). This natural process is accelerating due to increasing levels of anthropogenic CO₂. The average pH of the world's oceans has dropped by about 0.1 pH units since the beginning of the industrial age. If global carbon emissions are not substantially reduced, it is likely that oceanic uptake of anthropogenic carbon will result in a further drop of 0.3 to 0.7 pH units by the year 2100. A report by the U.K.'s Royal Society (<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/displaypagedoc.asp?id=13314>) indicates that this degree of change in ocean chemistry has not occurred in hundreds of thousands of years, and probably never on as rapid a timeframe as is currently occurring. Early data is highly suggestive that marine acidification (MA) will negatively impact many marine organisms, ecosystems, and by extension the human societies and economies that depend on them. Given the critical ecological, social, and economic function of oceans in the Asia-Pacific Rim, nowhere is the need for additional research greater than the Pacific region.

TAFMAP will provide an institutional framework and coordination for regional collaborative scientific research to examine the MA issue. The goals of the task force will be to identify knowledge gaps in scientific understanding of the MA phenomenon, including assessment of possible social and economic impacts. TAFMAP plans to produce a report based on a coming TAFMAP session at the 21st Pacific Science Congress in Okinawa in June 2007, that will discuss these various aspects of MA. This document will also be an important source for educating the policy community and public in the region about MA and the potential threat it poses to the marine ecological systems upon which those societies depend.

Please consult the PSA website (<http://www.pacificscience.org/tfinarineacidification.html>) for more information.

New Secure Server Processing for PSA Membership

As of February 2006, PSA offers membership payment via secure server credit card processing. This will make it easier for most of our members, particularly those for whom the previ-

ous system of personal checks and faxes were onerous. The transaction will be processed by PayPal (although this takes place off-screen) and so you may be assured that it is safe and secure. Unfortunately, PayPal only accepts payments from certain countries, and so those with addresses in the Pacific Island nations and territories, as well as Indonesia, Russia, Vietnam, and Philippines will NOT yet be able to use the system. We regret this inconvenience and are working to find a longer-term solution. In the meantime, PSA members in those locations can use the previous fax/mail method, filling out the membership form on the website, and send it to the PSA Secretariat.

Update on the 21st Pacific Science Congress

The open call for symposia and sessions for the 21st Pacific Science Congress continues. Individual scientists and scientific societies are encouraged to contact the Local Organizing Committee and/or the PSA Secretariat if they are interested in doing so (contact: Makoto Tsuchiya at tsuchiya@sci.u-ryukyu.ac.jp or Burke Burnett at burnett@bishopmuseum.org).

The overall theme of the Congress is "Diversity and Change: Challenges and Opportunities for Managing Natural and Social Systems in the Asia-Pacific". Currently planned sub-themes and associated symposia include:

- Islands in Development (including sessions on Globalization; Health and Development; Agriculture; Tourism; and Building Sustainable Communities)
- Maintaining Nature's Diversity (with both terrestrial and marine components in sessions on Biodiversity; Natural Resource Management and Protection; Ecosystem Services; Invasive Species; and Fisheries)
- Science and Society (sessions on Science Education; Enhancing Institutional Capacity; Media and Science; Science, Society, and Policy; and the Public Funding of Science)
- Technology and Sustainable Society (sessions on Energy; Biotechnology; Hazardous Waste)
- Sustaining Human Diversity (Indigenous Knowledge; Gender and Science; and Origins and Heritage of Pacific Peoples)
- Challenges and Opportunities in Change (Global Warming; Marine Acidification; Newly Emerging Infectious Diseases; Assessing Risk and Vulnerability in Natural Hazards; and Water Resource Management)

These symposia are still under development and the PSA Secretariat is currently soliciting input from PSA Task Forces and committees on sessions and speakers.

The Congress, to be held 12–16 June, 2007 at the Okinawa Convention Center in Naha, Okinawa, Japan, will be hosted by the University of the Ryukyus and co-sponsored by the Science Council of Japan. The Congress will be held in conjunction with the Science Council of Asia. The first circulars announcing the 2007 Congress will be sent in early 2006. A link to the Congress website can be found at: <http://www.psc21.net/> and on the PSA website at <http://www.pacificscience.org/congress2007.html>.

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

New ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The International Council for Science (ICSU) will inaugurate its new Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 18–19 September 2006. Based at the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, the opening will be held in conjunction with a regional symposium on "Natural and Human-Induced Hazards and Disasters". ICSU has also announced an opening for the posi-

tion of Director for the Asia-Pacific Regional Office, who will be selected and in place by mid-2006.

New Publications

The symposium on "Global Processes, Local Impacts: The Effects of Globalization in the Pacific-Asia Region" at 10th Pacific Science Inter-Congress in Guam in 2000 has led to a new book. Entitled *The Challenges of Globalization: Cultures in Transition in the Pacific-Asia Region*, the book was produced by Lan-Hung Nora Chiang and Rebecca Stephenson, co-leaders of the PSA Task Force on Globalization and Human Dynamics. It was edited by Lan-Hung Nora Chiang, John Lidstone, and Rebecca Stephenson, and published by the University Press of America (ISBN: 0761829512).

Membership Application

I/We wish to enroll in the Pacific Science Association in the following membership category:

- ☐ Associate scientific institution (US\$50)
- ☐ Corporate associate (US\$100)
- ☐ Individual associate (US\$40)

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Chinese Academy of Sciences
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fcb@ast590.tea.ac.ch

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Asian Social Science Research
Institute
Seoul, Korea
asri@unitel.co.kr

SECRETARIAT

John Burke Burnett
Pacific Science Association
Honolulu, Hawai'i
burnett@bishopmuseum.org

Pacific Science Association Membership Information

The Pacific Science Association is a regional, nongovernmental scientific organization founded in 1920. The objectives of the association are to advance science and technology in the Pacific region by increasing interdisciplinary collaboration; to build capacity in science and technology; to encourage science for public policy and the common good; and to promote the "science of the Pacific" and Pacific Island involvement in regional and international scientific activities. Scientific committees have been long established to study and to seek solutions for important problems of Pacific interest. Scientific task forces have been established to explore interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary areas identified as relevant.

Regular members of the association are adhering organizations (e.g., the national academy of science or a like body) from each country or definite geographic area within or bordering the Pacific Ocean, or with scientific interests in the region. In addition, associate membership may be held by individual scientists, scientific societies and institutions, and corporations.

The association is directed by the Pacific Science Council with its elected executive board. The executive board meets annually and makes recommendations to the council, which meets during congresses and inter-congresses. The president serves as chair of the council. The secretariat is located at:

Bishop Museum
1525 Bernice Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817, USA
Tel: (1) 808-848-4124
Fax: (1) 808-847-8252
E-mail: psa@bishopmuseum.org
Website: <http://www.pacificscience.org>